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Senate Bill 323, An Act Concerning Crane Operations Public Safety and Security Committee March 6, 2012

CCIA Position: Support

Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. (CCIA) represents various sectors of the commercial construction industry in Connecticut and is comprised of members who have a long history of providing quality work for the public benefit. CCIA seeks to advance and promote a better quality of life for all citizens in the state. Formed over 40 years ago, CCIA is an organization of associations, where all sectors of the commercial construction industry work together to advance and promote their shared interests. CCIA is comprised of more than 300 members, including contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and affiliated organizations representing many sectors of the construction industry.

CCIA's Safety Committee is comprised of more than 40 construction company safety directors, consultants and other professionals with a wealth of knowledge and experience in workplace safety. CCIA, on behalf of the Safety Committee, supports Senate Bill 323, An Act Concerning Crane Operations.

Senate Bill 323 would revise the license and certification requirements for crane and hoisting equipment operators. Most of the changes, according to the Crane Operators Examining Board, will allow the state to meet the federal OSHA crane certification requirements. Connecticut has a comprehensive licensing program, which has helped the state to attain one of the best safety records in the country.

Under the new OSHA crane standard, CFR 1926 subpart CC, every operator of cranes involved in construction, demolition, or excavation must be certified or licensed and retested for knowledge and skills at least every five years. Under Senate Bill 323, the state's license renewal requirement of every four years will be more frequent than the federal OSHA requirement. Regardless of which option is chosen for certification or license every operator in the state of Connecticut will have to be tested or retested when certain OSHA standards take effect in November 2014.

CCIA Safety Committee members support the crane board's efforts to maintain a robust licensing program. We believe Senate Bill 323 effectively coordinates our state crane law with the new federal OSHA crane certification requirements and we urge the committee to approve the bill.

Please contact John Butts, staff liaison to the CCIA Safety Committee or Matthew Hallisey, Director of Government Relations and Legislative Counsel for CCIA, at 860-529-6855, if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

